

Partnerships That Work

Dallas Region

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Talking Leaves Takes Home the Silver Cup

At the Dallas Region's 14th Annual Academic Olympics, held in San Antonio, Texas, and hosted by Gary Job Corps Center, Talking Leaves Job Corps Center won the Silver Challenge Cup by defeating the other 13 centers. In addition to bringing home the cup, the Talking Leaves Team also won three of the 1st Place honors, netting a \$1,000.00 scholarship each. Walina Yeager, who is studying Business Office Technology, won 1st Place in the Language Arts individual competition. Jeff Dittenber won 1st Place in the Social Studies individual competition and is also studying Business Office Technology. Percy Brooks won 1st Place in the Science individual competition and is studying Electrical Wiring. Percy is planning on using his scholarship money to further his education as a journeyman electrician, and Jeff and Walina are planning to use their

scholarships to attend college when they complete their training at Talking Leaves. Desi Custer, who had been a member of the 1999 and 2000 teams, was the student coach. She was recognized by Jose de Olivares, Regional Director, as the Outstanding Olympian of all time. Desi is currently a student at Northeastern State University through the center's ACT program, majoring in Computer Technology. The other members of the team were Dustin Cooper (Math) and Kristina Sims (Oratory). The coaches were Sandra Caughman and Debbie Davis. Over the past four years, the students of Talking Leaves have won \$8,500.00 in scholarship monies. Talking Leaves is looking forward to hosting the 2002 Academic Olympics and the date and place will be announced soon. Sueann Freeman, Academic Supervisor at Talking

Leaves, will be the coordinator for this event. ■



Front Row - Jeff Dittenber, Percy Brooks
Seated Left to Right - Kristina Sims, Debbie Davis,
Sueann Freeman, Walina Yeager
Back Row Left to Right - Desidereta Custer,
Dustin Cooper, Sandra Caughman

Allan Kaufman...

Why We Need to Make CDSS Work and What It Is Going to Take to Do It



I've been reading comments from four groups comprised of people involved in different aspects of the CDSS process. Let me tell you what I learned.

1. There is dissatisfaction with the way things are going.
2. Some centers are way ahead, but almost nobody feels the process works as it should.
3. Neither O&A people nor CAs believe they are getting the support they need.
4. Lot of complaints about communications breaking down.
5. Complaints, too, about center staff – particularly RAs and Career Development folks – acting as though CDSS isn't their responsibility.
6. Comments that "old-timers," who've seen many changes come and go are

waiting for this to blow over, too.

7. The idea that programs must be tailored to each student – that one-size no longer fits all – meets the greatest resistance.
 8. Poor customer service. Too many staff people acting like they're doing kids a favor, treating them like inmates.
 9. Transition Coordinators complain of too little time to get kids ready for the job market. Getting paperwork approved isn't enough.
 10. Too many kids leave unprepared to get or hold a job. Got GED but no job skills, got job skills but no life skills. How do they get to the job site if they can't drive?
 11. CAs complain they don't have enough information to keep track of graduates.
 12. Everybody asks for more training (and, from what I hear, it is under way).
- Most of these complaints are not much

different from those we heard before CDSS.

Let's remind ourselves why we got into this program in the first place. Congress asked us to follow graduates for a year to see how they do. Before that we didn't have CAs, remember?

CDSS, whatever else it is, is a job security program for Job Corps staffers. If we make it work we reassure Congress it is spending the people's money wisely.

Now, what does it take to make it work?

1. We've got to recruit the right kids.
2. We've got to prepare them to succeed at getting jobs, keeping jobs, making a life for themselves.
3. We've got to help them line up those jobs.
4. Once they start to work, we've got to keep tabs on them and mentor them for a whole year.

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Job Corps News

Why We Need to Make CDSS Work and What It Is Going to Take to Do It/Allan Kaufman - Continued from Page 1

Read over that brief list of got-to's and you can't escape the fact that everyone who works for Job Corps has a role to play in making them happen. Everyone.

The toughest issue right now is number four. How do we do that?

The best way is to inspire our students to want to stay in touch after they graduate and

to make it easy for them. That's my favorite. It is predicated on building a special kind of relationship with our students and putting the right tools in the hands of our CAs (like cell phones).

We can build an incentive program to encourage students to keep contact.

Lastly, we could develop a technical fix –

an electronic method of keeping tabs on graduates.

Those are the only ways to accomplish what we need to accomplish. Knowing that, we ought to be working on all three approaches right now. ■

Shreveport Academic Olympics Team Takes 1st Place!

On Monday, October 22, 2001, Academic Olympians Casey Williams (Mathematics), LeBarron Fuller (Language Arts), Katherine Edwards (Science), Michael Ross (Social Studies), Lawanna McDonald (Orator), two assistant coaches, Jeremy McMannus, Adam King, and four staff members Charlotte McGowan (Center Director), Thony J. Martino (Vocations Manager), Murrilline Bell (Math Instructor), and Doris Jones (GED Instructor) attended the 14th Annual Academic Olympics.

The Shreveport Job Corps Center team posted a score of 93, out of a possible high score of 96, that would not be surpassed for the duration of the team competition. All of the Shreveport team members qualified for not only the team finals, but also for the individual finals. This was a feat accomplished by no other center.

Shreveport did well in every category of individual competition, placing 3rd in Social Studies, 3rd in Language Arts, 3rd in Mathematics, and 5th in Science (official individual standings). This left the Shreveport team in wonderful position for the final team competition the next day.

On Wednesday, October 24th the team competition began. Only five teams out of 14 made the cut. The team competition left both contestants and coaches exhausted. Mr. de Olivares (Regional Director) announced fifth through third place teams, leaving only two teams, Guthrie Job Corps Center and Shreveport Job Corps Center. He paused for a moment and then said,

"First Place goes to goes to Mrs. Charlotte McGowan and her team from the Shreveport Job Corps Center!"

The next day a celebration was held for the students who participated in the event. The street directly in front of the Center was closed and all the students and staff lined the street and welcomed the weary students and staff home. The President of the Community Relations Council, Mrs. Lola May, gave a congratulatory speech and all of the students were treated to a dance that was sponsored by the Association of Student Workers.

Shreveport Job Corps Center Individual Biographies Academic Olympic Team

Michael Ross

**1st Place Team Competition,
3rd Place Social Studies Competition**

Since the Academic Olympics, Michael has enlisted in the United States Navy. His future plans are to serve his enlistment term and then use his benefits to attend college.

Casey Williams

**1st Place Team Competition,
3rd Place Mathematics Competition**

Casey is currently in Business Office Technology. His primary focus at this point is to complete the Training Achievement Record and then continue his skill in a Work-Based Learning capacity. His long-term goals are to participate in the Advanced

Career Training program and attend Southern University in Shreveport where he will major in Psychology.

LaBarron Fuller

**1st Place Team Competition,
3rd Place Language Arts Competition**

Since Academic Olympics, LeBarron has enlisted in the United States Army and is stationed at Fort Leonardwood. His military occupation is Chemical Operations Specialist. His plans are to attend college while in the Army.

Katherine Edwards

**1st Place Team Competition,
5th Place Science Competition**

Katherine has completed the Job Corps program at Shreveport. She finished the Health Occupations program as well as attained her G.E.D. while she was enrolled at SJCC. She is currently waiting for the Spring Semester to begin at Southern University where she will use her scholarship monies to fund her first semester. She will major in Radiology.

Lawanna McDonald

1st Place Team Competition

Lawanna is currently enrolled in the Advanced Career Training program at SJCC. She is attending Southern University and is majoring in Business. Lawanna has completed her vocational skill of Business Office Technology and plans to continue her education through the use of her scholarship. ■

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Job Corps News



Ivory Jenkins 1st Place - Oratorical Competition New Orleans Job Corps Center

The New Orleans Job Corps Center's staff and trainees roared thunderously as the announcement of the first place recipient of the Dallas Region Oratorical competition was made. New Orleans experienced history in the making by watching Ivory Jenkins accept the first place honors.

Ivory worked extremely hard in preparation for this portion of the Academic Olympics. He has a strong passion to share his story with others in order to help them achieve the goals that they set for themselves. In order to relay that message effectively, Ivory gladly took the necessary steps to prepare for the contest. He diligently researched facts. He developed a well-written speech and accepted coaching from his instructors and other staff. Finally, he took the time to attend a local Toastmasters meeting in order to gain tips on effective public speaking. The Toastmasters members were very accepting of Ivory and the New Orleans Job Corps Center, and offered to assist him in preparing for his speech.

Members helped by coming to the center to offer an evaluation and critique of Ivory's speech. They advised him as to what areas were the strongest, where he was the weakest, and made several suggestions for improvement (i.e., body language, eye con-



Ivory Jenkins - New Orleans Job Corps Center

tact, voice control, etc.). Toastmaster members expressed how impressed they were with the content and delivery of Ivory's speech, and were especially impressed by his personality and confidence.

Ivory obviously took all of the given instruction under advisement and, in addi-

tion to his own natural ability, charisma, intelligence, hard work, and determination, he came in first place.

Ivory is a Business Office Technology trainee who aspires to become an entrepreneur in business management and music. He enjoys every aspect of Gospel music, and he composes, produces, arranges, and writes it as a hobby. He is the 17-year-old son of Tammy Smith and Harell Gray and the step-son of Lendell Smith.

Ivory states that he receives his greatest inspiration from God. "Without Him, you are nothing!" Ivory exclaims. He further credits his pastor as an inspiration and a person who serves as a good role model.

Ivory encourages all young people to obtain their education and career training. He wants them to realize that without it, they will not get very far in life. He also suggests that they become more in touch and in tune with God. Ivory feels that this combination is a sure recipe for success! ■

Center Tidbits...

Carrasco Job Corps Center

The David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center's Academic Olympics team took 6th in the 14th annual regional competition. Congratulations to Cristóbal Rivera for taking 2nd in the Science individual competition!

Cass Job Corps Center

Congratulations Jason Edfurd for taking 1st in the Math Individual Competition at the 2001 Academic Olympics. Jason enrolled in Business Office Technology and graduated from Cass in November. He has since enlisted in the United States Navy and after basic training he will be studying computer engineering. Jason's goal is to go to college and major in Computer Information Systems. Good luck Jason!

Tulsa Job Corps Center

Derry Brazil from McGhee, Arkansas, transferred from the Little Rock Job Corps Center to the Tulsa Job Corps Center in April 2001. His future aspirations include enrolling in college and studying Business Administration and to eventually own and operate his own business.

Derry was Tulsa Job Corps Center's 3rd place Academic Olympics Oratory winner. Tulsa Job Corps is very proud of Derry Brazil and hopes that next year we come home 1st place winners in all categories!

Gary Job Corps Center

Gary Job Corps Center hosted the 2001 Annual Academic Olympics. Their team was comprised of (top left to right); Jason

Broussard (Alternate Student Coach), Jason Davis (Science), David Heacock (2nd place Science, Team Captain), Hodder Gharib (Coach), (middle left to right) Caty Partnin (Coach), Juan Enríquez (5th place Math), (bottom left to right) Aranda Williams (2nd place Oratory), and Esbelda Betancourt (Language Arts). ■



Gary Job Corps 2001 Academic Olympic Team



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LettersToTheEditor...

Dear Editor:

New Orleans has a new CA in Construction, Harriet Reynolds, who is trying to help some of the grads. Still no help in the HOT area. MTC employed a new CA, Jeff Thompson, in the Houston area and he seems to be trying as well. I still think "face to face" is better in Louisiana but there has been a little progress and I thank all of you who helped at your level!

Response: Thanks for the appreciation and feedback. I will pass it on to the relevant PMs.

Dear Editor:

Just wanted to comment on the speaker that was brought to the November Regional Managers' Meeting. I think that the Regional Office made a great choice by bringing in Mr. Richard Clark to speak to us about lobbying

for our special interests. This is especially helpful with the introductions of the new GED 2002, which will be so much harder for our students to pass. It makes it easier to understand how and why we must try to get our students high school diplomas (if possible), as they now seem easier to attain than a GED.

Response: We're glad you found the information useful. ■

RegionalNews...

Jack Jones (Regional CDSS Coordinator) has been the Dallas Region's employer development specialist for many years. He has just been certified by the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWP). Jack is the first Job Corps

person in the country working at the regional level to achieve this certification and one of only five people associated with Job Corps nationwide to be certified by NAWP. Congratulations Jack! ■

AskArla...

Dear Arla,

I recently ordered fact sheets, but was told by Cutting Edge that there weren't any available due to a pending redesign. How soon will they be available? We're pretty close to running out!

M.G. – Texas

Dear M.G.,

The redesign was pending approval from the Regional Office, but due to other concerns we were told to reorder fact sheets while a final decision is reached. We will be waiting until after the March OA Conference for redesign so that we can get your input. We want to make sure that we are providing you with necessary materials and OA staff opinions are vital. As soon as the reprints

come in, we'll be sure to fill any back orders we have and process others accordingly. I look forward to seeing you at the OA Conference!

Dear Arla,

I was on-line and I noticed that our regional website has center information that has changed. How can we fix this?

D.R. – Oklahoma

Dear D.R.,

I'm glad you've brought this up! Any changes to information that is listed on the website (www.DallasRegionCDSS.org) should be forwarded to me. I usually send out requests for updates, and sometimes I get changes. I know that you're busy, but

if you could drop me an email or fax – I'll gladly see to it that the changes take effect. While we're talking about this, it reminds me to let you know that I will be trying to put together a CDSS directory for our region. I'll be sending out requests for information soon, and your assistance is greatly appreciated. We feel that the directory can help those staffers who don't have access to a computer find out who to contact at other centers. Look forward to this soon!

Please send all inquiries, information, and suggestions to:

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